

## Significant Changes in 2007 CBC

Some of the changes from the 2001 CBC to the 2007 CBC are listed below:

1. Big changes in Conventional Framing. Minimum braced wall length now 9 ft 4 inches per 25 feet of wall. Cripple walls over 14 inches high counted as a story for bracing purposes (2308.12.4).
2. In R-3 and U Occupancies, no openings are allowed in walls 3 feet or closer to property line, openings in walls between 3 feet and up to 5 feet from property line can be up to 25% of wall area. All walls less than 5 feet from the property line must be fire resistive construction. (Table 704.8). Eaves must be protected if any part of them extends into the area where openings are prohibited. This means that an eave can extend to a point 24 inches from the property line, but no closer.
3. Minimum stair run is now 10 inches and maximum rise is 7  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in Residential Occupancies (1009.3).
4. Handrails required on both sides of stairways unless inside a dwelling unit (1009.10). Openings in stair guards can be up to 4  $\frac{3}{8}$  sphere.
5. Open risers permitted in stairways that are not part of a means of egress but the openings are restricted to not pass a 4 inch sphere. Stair nosing shall be uniform and the radius shall not exceed 0.5 inches (1009.3.3).
6. Guardrails (now called guards) shall be a minimum of 42 inches high in all occupancies (1013.2). Exception at R-3 stairs and intermediate landings allows them to be 34 to 38 with 4  $\frac{3}{8}$  openings.
7. Standard anchor bolt washers must be 3 inches square and a minimum of 0.229 inches thick (2308.12.8).
8. Thresholds at doorways shall not exceed 0.75 inches in height for sliding doors and 0.5 inches for other doors. Landings may be up to 7.75 inches below top of thresholds in R-2 or R-3 (1008.1.6). This includes a 7 inch finished floor to landing height and a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch threshold.
9. A stair with only a single riser or two risers and one tread requires a tread length of 13 inches and a maximum riser height of 7 inches (1003.5).
10. The ground immediately adjacent to the foundation shall slope away from the foundation at 1:20 (5%) for a distance of 10 feet (1803.3).
11. In areas likely to have expansive soil, the building official shall require soil tests to determine where such soils do exist (1802.2.2). Exceptions are additions to one and two story residences with a minimum footing depth of 18 inches.
12. Greenboard is no longer allowed as tile backing in tub or shower areas (2509.2).
13. In other than dwelling units, toilet and bathing room floors shall have a smooth, hard surface extending up the wall at least 6 inches (was 5 inches) (1210.1).
14. All residential kitchens and rooms containing bathing facilities shall have mechanical ventilation (1203.4.2) and California Mechanical Code
15. Windows with an opening sill height more than 72 inches above grade shall have the lowest part of the opening portion at least 24 inches above the finished floor. Glazing between the floor and a height of 24 inches shall be fixed and any openings shall not pass a 4 inch sphere (1405.12.2)

16. Emergency egress windows from grade level rooms may be 5 sq ft minimum net opening if they are within 44 inches above or below grade. All other egress window requirements remain the same (1026.2)
17. Wood framing members at exterior walls, including wood sheathing, shall be naturally durable or preservative treated unless 8 inches or more above finished grade or 6 inches above pavement at exterior walls (2304.11.2.2).

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